



TO: Jody Hamilton, Parks Board Liaison

FROM: Carolyn Nelson, Division Manager, Cultural Affairs

DATE: May 25, 1990

SUBJECT: Parks Board Agenda

Please include the following item on the Parks Board agenda for their June 11, 1990 meeting:

Appointment of three members to the Art and Recreation Subcommittee.

The Art and Recreation Subcommittee, established by Council Ordinance, and which serves as the Appeals Panel for the cultural arts funding process, will need to meet between June 18 and June 28. We can not schedule definite dates until the Austin Arts Commission has made its final recommendations on the arts funding. Depending on the number of appeals filed, the subcommittee will need to meet 2 to 3 times within that time period.

It is imperative that the representatives from the Parks Board be present at these meetings. Last year, only one member from the Parks Board participated on the Art and Recreation Subcommittee. This resulted in a change to the guidelines which now require that at least two Arts Commission members, two Parks and Recreation Department Board members and the at-large member be present to effect a quorum.

If unable to meet due to lack of quorum, final recommendations on cultural arts funding would not be made within the time specified by City Council.

Proposed 138 kV Town Lake Crossing

Background

The City of Austin Electric Utility is planning to build a transmission line connecting its Seaholm and Salem Walk substations. This project will provide an alternative path for electricity from the 138 kV transmission system into central Austin. This project is necessary for two reasons:

- To prevent a partial system blackout in the event that a failure of key transmission facilities occurs;
- To reduce the amount of more expensive gas-fired generation needed to maintain minimum levels of transmission reliability throughout the system by allowing for the import of more lower-cost electricity from the Fayette coal plant and the South Texas Project.

The Existing Crossing

The Seaholm to Salem Walk line will cross Town Lake at or near the existing transmission line crossing just east of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge. The existing crossing is a 69 kV line, consisting of three conductor wires and two shield wires. The conductor wires carry the electrical power and the shield wires protect the conductors from lightning. The wires are supported by steel lattice towers located on the north shore between West First Street and the lake and on the south side of Riverside Drive near Dawson Road. The line span from structure to structure across the lake is approximately 1077 feet in length.

Route Options

Two primary route options have been considered for the new transmission line crossing Town Lake:

(1) Add the new circuit to the existing transmission crossing.

This would be accomplished by adding three conductors and removing the two shield wires, for a net gain of one wire. Lightning protection would be provided by transmission line surge arresters

rather than shield wires. Taller, sleeker structures would replace the current lattice towers, with the north tower being moved across West First Street onto the Seaholm site.

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

(2) Combine the new and existing circuits to cross Town Lake at a location parallel to the railroad bridge.

The lines and structures would be identical to those described in the first route option, but would run parallel to the Union Pacific railroad bridge. As in option one, the structure on the south side would be rebuilt near the same location and the structure on the north side would be relocated on the western edge of the Seaholm site.

Cost Estimate: \$300,000

Underground design alternative.

A design alternative that originated at an initial public involvement meeting calls for installing the new transmission line underground from Barton Springs Road on the bottom of Town Lake to the Seaholm substation site.

Cost Estimate: \$2,000,000

It would also be possible to relocate the existing circuit underground for an additional cost.

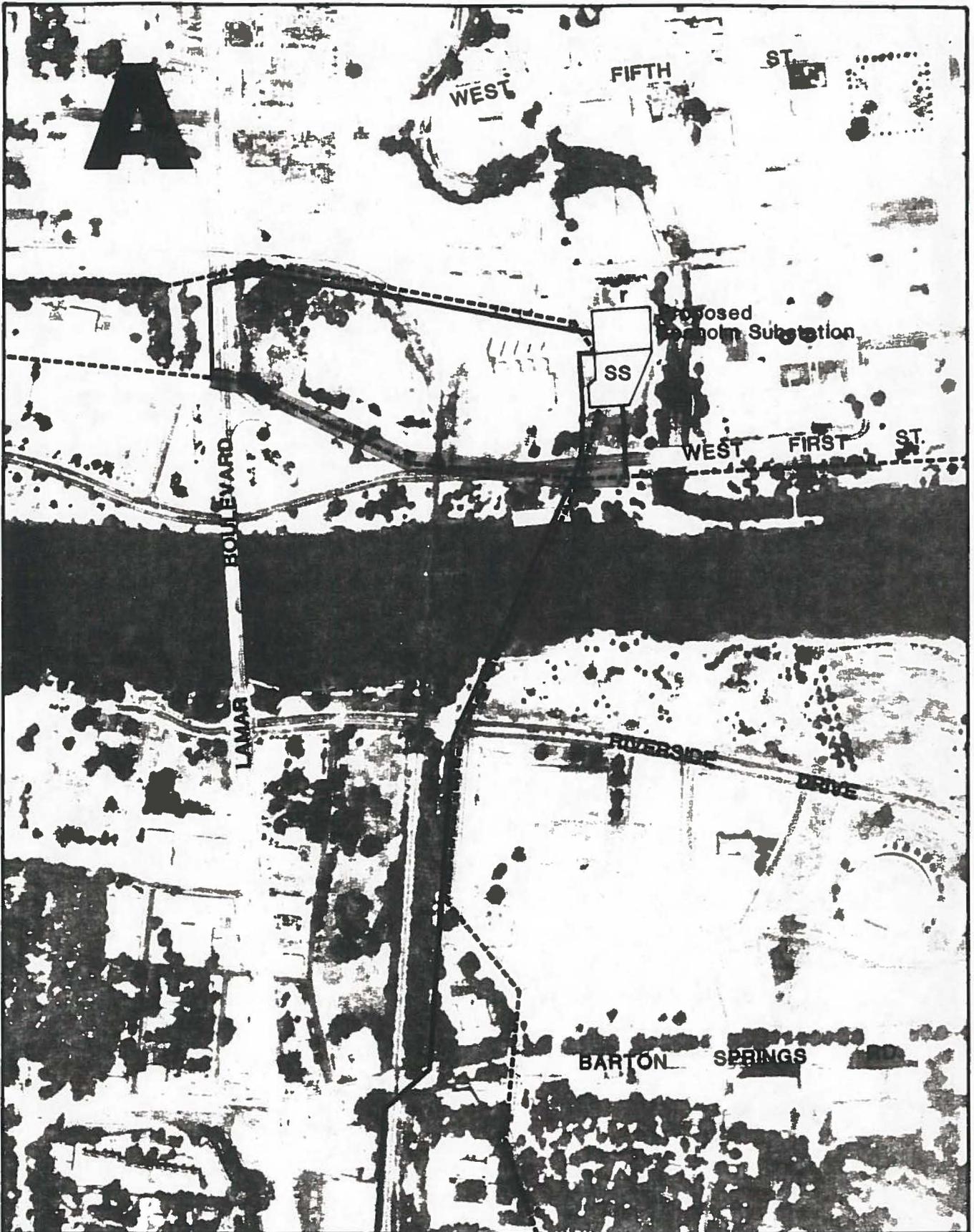
**Cost Estimate to install new line and relocate existing line:
\$3,300,000**

CIP Authorized and Budget Amount

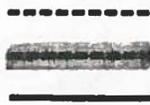
Original project estimate for Seaholm
to Salem Walk project: \$6,600,000

Schedule

The estimated completion date is June, 1992.



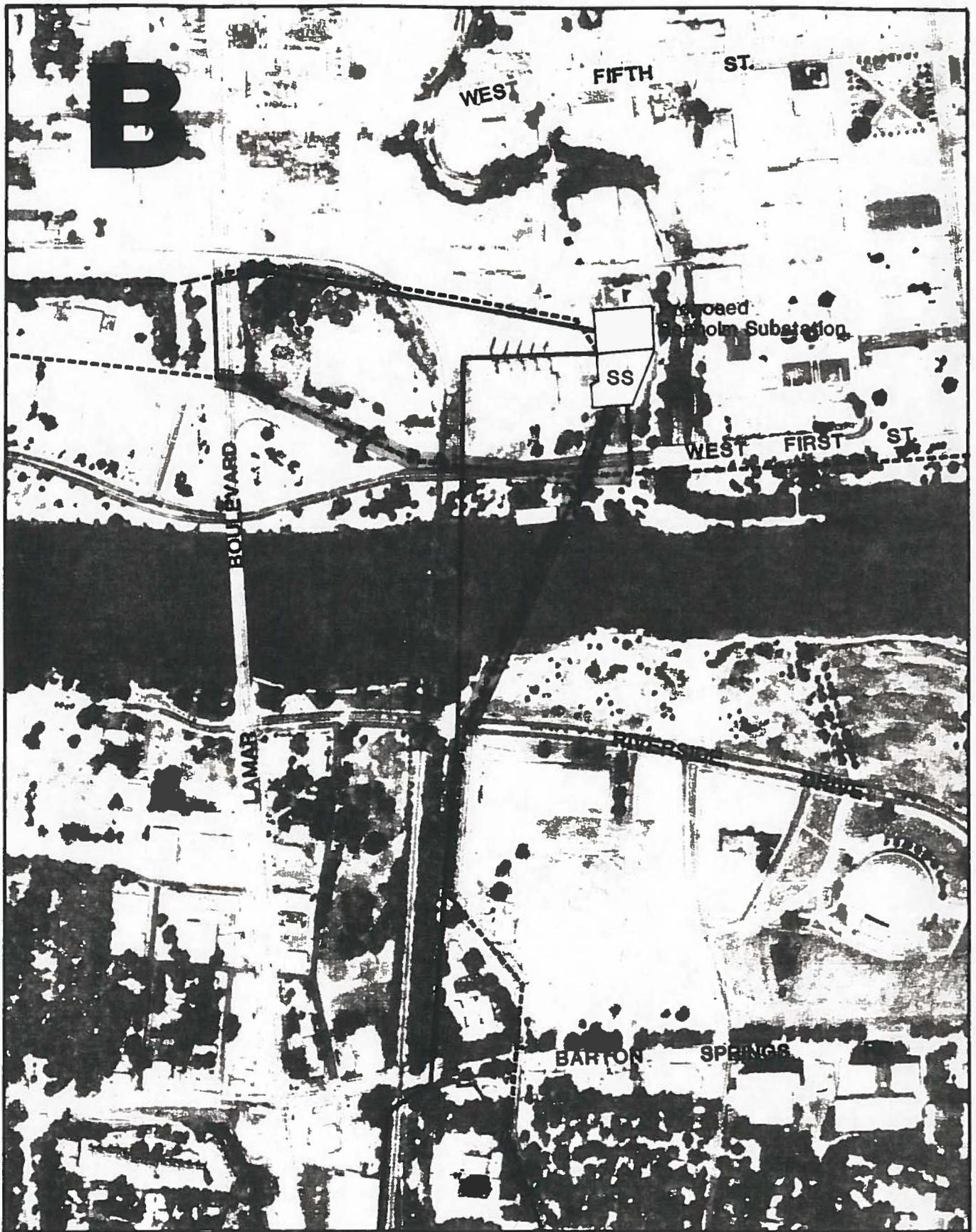
ESPEY,
HUSTON &
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Engineering & Environmental Consultants



Existing Line
Existing Line Removed
Proposed Line



0 500 FEET

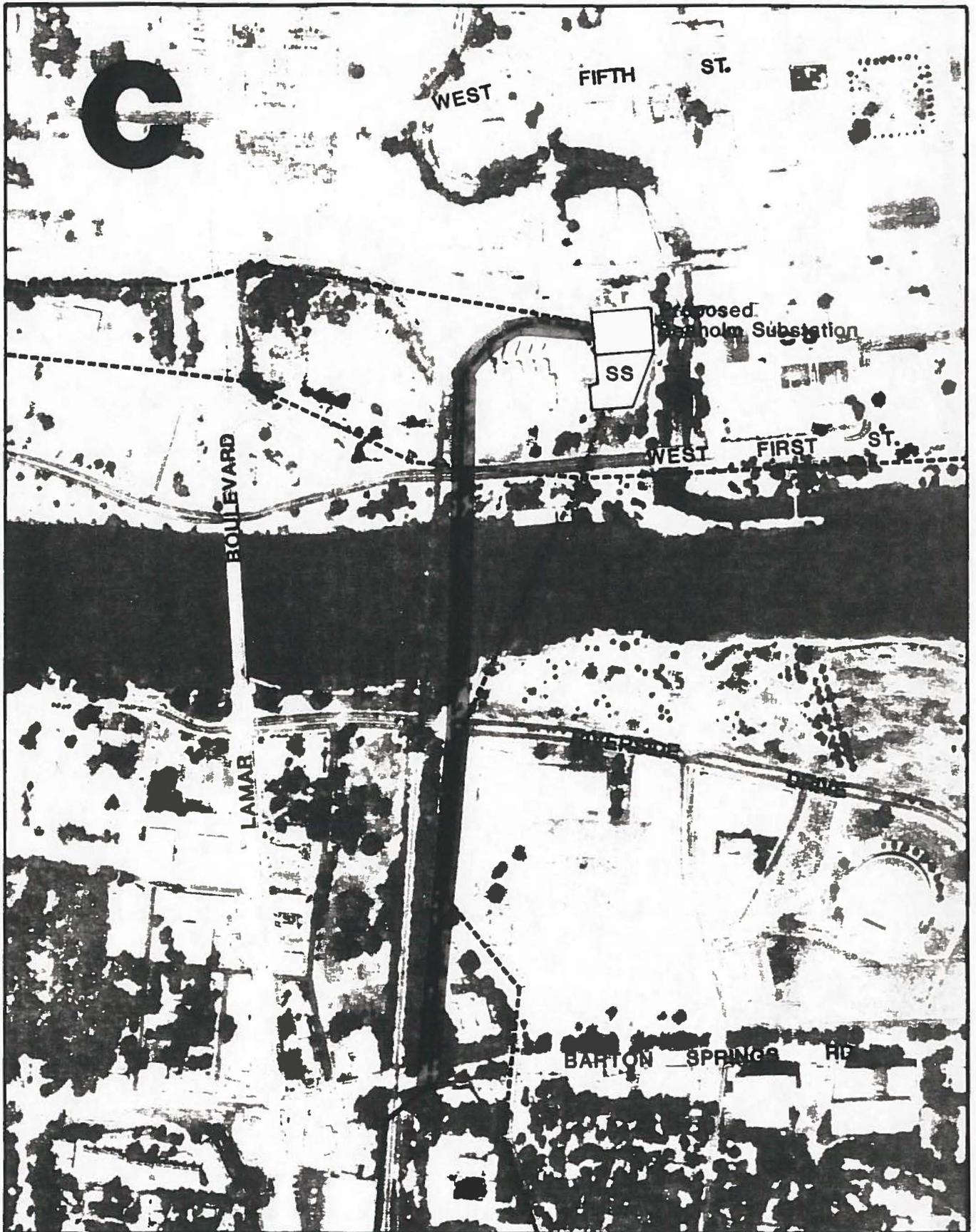


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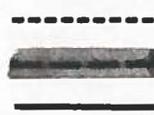
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- Proposed Line



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ESPEY,
HUSTON &
ASSOCIATES, INC.
Engineering & Environmental Consultants



Existing Line
Underground Alternative
Proposed Line



0 500 FEET

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Parks and Recreation Board Members

FROM: Manuel A. Mollinedo, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: June 4, 1990

SUBJECT: South Austin Little League Field Modifications

South Austin Little League operates the ballfields on Butler Shores, to the west of the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office. All improvements to the Little League fields are required to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Parks and Recreation Department, before construction.

*+ by
Planning*

In late March, PARD staff noticed construction work being carried out in the area of Preston Field, which is the South Austin Little League Field by the confluence of Barton Creek and Town Lake. Two projects had been undertaken by the Little League: 1. Moving the fence on Preston Field back, closer to the edge of the bluff above the Hike and Bike Trail, and 2. Grading, fencing, and erecting bleachers on concrete slabs at a formerly unfenced area to the south of Preston Field. No approval for those improvements had been secured, nor had any Site Development Permits been obtained from the City Planning and Development Department.

Procedural questions aside, the relocated fence at Preston Field interferes with the alignment of the proposed Town Lake Bicycle Trail. There are other problems with the addition of another fenced ballfield to the area. The Town Lake Comprehensive Plan does not envision the development of any new fenced ballfields in Town Lake Park, outside of Krieg Fields. In fact, in most areas, fenced ballfields are recommended to be converted to open playfields, in order to allow more public access to the sites, and a wider variety of uses. The Town Lake Park Ordinance requires that established ballfields in Town Lake Park "be relocated only after replacement locations have been developed in compliance with the Town Lake Park Plan" (Sec. 10-4-54). If this newly developed ballfield is considered an established ballfield under the terms of the Town Lake Park Ordinance, the Ordinance would require the development of another ballfield outside the Town Lake Corridor, before the newly developed field could be removed.

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South Austin Little League
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The normal review process for such an improvement would have been application for a Site Development Permit and review of that application by the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Board. An amendment to the Town Lake Park Ordinance would also likely be required, in order to add an additional fenced ballfield to Town Lake Park. Such an amendment requires the approval of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board, the Parks and Recreation Board, the Planning Commission and the City Council, with public hearings held before each body. The Waterfront Planning Advisory Board considered the field modifications at their May 9 meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

PARD staff recommends that the newly developed field not be designated as a ballfield for the purposes of the Town Lake Park Ordinance, in order that its replacement not be required under the terms of that ordinance. Further, it is recommended that both the new field and the relocated fence be subject to removal at the expense of the South Austin Little League, when required by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Manuel A. Mollinedo, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

MM:CK



MEMORANDUM

TO: Manuel A. Mollinedo, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

FROM: Jonathan Markley, Chair
Waterfront Planning Advisory Board

DATE: May 11, 1990

SUBJECT: South Austin Little League Field Modifications

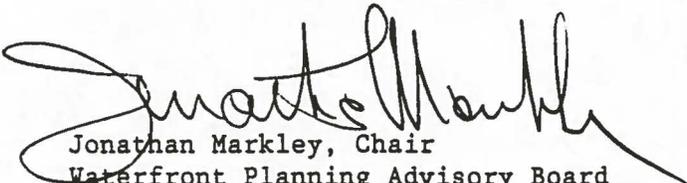
At our May 9, 1990 meeting the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

The field modifications done by the South Austin Little League in the area of Preston Field were done illegally, and without appropriate permits or approvals from the appropriate City Departments and Boards. In addition, the field modifications as installed are in direct conflict with other plans for that area: in particular, the Town Lake Bicycle Trail and the Town Lake Park Ordinance.

The Town Lake Comprehensive Plan, which governs that area, was a hard-won compromise between the thousands of Austin citizens that were involved in the planning of Town Lake Park, and has been adopted as a City of Austin Ordinance by the City Council. It is crucial that the various private groups operating in Town Lake Park be mindful of the Town Lake Comprehensive Plan, and develop their facilities accordingly, with appropriate public oversight.

The Waterfront Planning Advisory Board recommends that the field modifications not be considered a developed ballfield, but be subject to removal at the discretion of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Further, the Board recommends that the South Austin Little League either remove the field modifications immediately, or post a letter of credit to cover their removal at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Department.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 482-5407.


Jonathan Markley, Chair
Waterfront Planning Advisory Board